



Nevada GEAR UP First Year

Subgrantee: Clark County School District
Name of School: J.D. Smith Middle School
FY 02 Award: \$63,621.00
of students: 345

The Principal, Assistant Principal, and the seventh-grade counselor will be responsible for the GEAR Up program at the school site. The school will target fifty (50) seventh-grade students who will be placed in Pre-Algebra with a 25:1 student-to-teacher ratio to help prepare the students to take Algebra in the eighth grade. Currently, there are thirty (30) students enrolled in Accelerated Math.

Students who have failed classes during the first quarter of seventh-grade will also be targeted. These students will be required to attend after school classes to make up their work in English or Mathematics. Reward incentives will be used to encourage students to attend and complete their work. UNLV's Academic Talent Search Program, guest speakers, field trips, and counselor presentations will also be an integral part of the GEAR UP program.

Academic Enrichment: Teachers will identify seventh-grade students who are in need of additional help in mathematics to successfully prepare them for Algebra in the eighth grade. Students will be placed in a seventh period pre-Algebra class and teachers will provide a rigorous curriculum. Students will need to receive a semester grade of C or better.

Students will be offered incentives to motivate them to use technology outside the classroom environment to take advantage of tutorial program purchased by the school, which include Accelerated Reader and Accelerated Math. The library and computer lab will be available for student use before and after school, and during lunch. The librarian will be available after school for one hour to provide additional academic support for students.

Under provisions of the program, all seventh-grade GEAR UP students will receive academic and career counseling. Seventh-grade students will also participate in an "On Your Way to College" seminar.

Professional Development: Professional development will be coordinated by the counselor who oversees the GEAR UP program with the goals and objectives set by the GEAR UP program committee. The committee includes parents, community members, UNLV professors, and members of the J.D. Smith Learning Improvement Team. At the spring planning session, the team members will develop staff in-service training, and will target goals and objectives described by this program.



Articulation meetings will be held for all math teachers and will include meetings with elementary feeder schools and the receiving high school. All teachers will also attend in-service training on the GEAR UP program. In addition, as provided through the school improvement process and the GEAR UP goals, teachers and administrators will receive training related to increasing teacher expectations, as well as instruction on effective techniques for increasing reading and math in middle school. Math teachers will attend the district training on Algebra for eighth graders.

Parent Involvement: At present, forty-five (45) parents are active attendees at the parent advisory meetings. The parent community is also supported by English as a Second Language (ESL) classes offered during the day (Adult Education) and in the evening (Community College of Southern Nevada).

Tutoring/Mentoring: The school will provide tutors through the Tutorial Incentive Program (TIP) for students with low and/or failing grades in mathematics and reading. The homeless tutoring program facilitated by the learning strategist, the seventh period retention prevention classes, the Homework club, and the Inner-City Games Computer Camp will also provide academic support.

Support System: A seventh-grade career counselor and a clerk will be hired to support the GEAR UP program. Staff will chart the course of the current seventh-grade students and monitor them through the 2001-02 and 2002-03 school years using a comprehensive database that will track student demographics and participation in the various programs included and supportive of the GEAR UP program.